

2019 / 2020 WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

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ADVENTURES IN CANADIAN ART *NEW OFFERING IN 2019 / 2020*

Biweekly, Thursday, 10-12, Week 2

This workshop examines a number of art forms – painting, sculpture, photography, and mixed media in Canada – from which participants may choose to make their presentations. We will be highlighting artists from the West, the Maritimes, and Quebec; from Maude Lewis, to Stan Douglas, to Paul-Emile Borduas. We will also look at lesser-known but amazing artists such as David Altmejd, Paraskeva Clark, and Bertram Booker. There will be discussions about Canadian political art, about comparing Inuit Sculpture to Picasso and to Giacometti, about Street and Public art, and about issues facing Canadian museums. We hope to have guest speakers who are artists and curators, and perhaps a field trip to a gallery.

FACILITATORS:

Alan Silverman (alan.silverman@utoronto.ca) is a semi-retired teacher and high-school administrator who still teaches a course at OISE. He is interested in all types of visual art and is looking for the ultimate aesthetic experience!

Elaine Rodgers (elainerodgers1112@gmail.com) retired from the hectic world of business and is now pursuing her wide interest in the arts.

ARCHITECTURE AND MORE: SQUARES THAT MADE HISTORY

Biweekly, Thursday, 2 – 4, Week 1

This workshop will focus on famous public squares like Red, Tiananmen, Tahrir, Trafalgar, Nathan Phillips, or Piazza Navonna and new ones to discover. We plan to examine the architecture as well as their historical, social, and political significance. A suggestion list will be provided (or you may choose your own) and **each participant will be asked to prepare a 20-minute illustrated presentation followed by group discussion**. Throughout the workshop we will explore the importance of public squares, how they have changed over time, and what the future holds for them.

FACILITATORS:

Gillian Long (gillian.long@utoronto.ca) has always enjoyed travel and history as well as architecture. She hopes that this new workshop will enhance her enjoyment.

Yvette Matyas (ymatyas5351@rogers.com) worked for more than 20 years in health care administration, including leading teams and facilitating retreats. She has co-facilitated architecture workshops for several years, as well as workshops on aging and dance.

THE BAUHAUS: THE LONG INFLUENCE OF A SHORT-LIVED UTOPIA

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Wednesday, 10 – 12, Week 1

Bauhaus, the school of art and design, was founded in Germany a hundred years ago, in 1919, and was shut down by the Nazis in 1933. It aimed to rethink art in the industrial age. In its brief life it produced a dazzling array of experiments in the visual arts, building, and furniture design – and, even, theatre and dance. Pulling away from the horror of WW I, the Bauhaus had utopian ideas about a fusion of art, industry, design, and craft. It profoundly influenced the design of the buildings we live in and the design of the things of everyday life. Under the early leadership of architect Walter Gropius, the movement included many architects, artists, and designers such as Mies van der Rohe, Wassily Kandinsky, and Lazlo Moholy-Nagy. Members may choose to present on one of the many well-known personalities attached to the movement and on its influences in our lives today.

FACILITATORS:

Virginia Clark (clarkvirginia45@gmail.com) is a design enthusiast and an art lover. Her background is in editing, communications, and public policy. Born and brought up in the USA, she came to Toronto in the late 1960s and is happily Canadian.

Sheilagh Hickie (shickie@bell.net) has always been interested in architecture and artists and, although never having been to Dessau, has visited the Bauhaus museum in Berlin. She has facilitated many workshops over the years, focusing particularly on literature.

BOOKS ON BOOKS: WRITERS AND READERS

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Wednesday, 2 – 4, Week 1

For the first two meetings of this workshop, we will discuss three books of Alberto Manguel: *A History of Reading* (1996), *A Reader on Reading* (2010), and *Packing My Library: An Elegy and Ten Digressions* (2018). Manguel is called “the Casanova of reading” or “a reader’s reader”. Inspired by his erudition and bibliophilia, we will go on to investigate other writers who are similarly inclined. As we read these writers on books, writers, and readers, we will consider Manguel’s assertion that words, in spite of everything, lend coherence to the world and offer us “a few safe places, as real as paper and as bracing as ink” in our passage through life. **Each participant will be expected to read a book for every session and to make one 20-minute presentation during the year.** A comprehensive bibliography will be provided, but participants may suggest other relevant titles to present.

FACILITATOR:

Carolyn Murray (carolyn.murray@utoronto.ca) was a librarian at the University of Toronto for 30 years. She holds two M.A.s: History ('62) and Theology ('08). She has facilitated at the Academy since 2008, leading workshops in religion, biography, autobiography, Indian fiction and, most recently, travel writing.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Tuesday, 10 – 12, Week 1

Join us to drill beneath the surface of the largest empire in history. This foremost global power staked claims from the freezing tundra of northern territories to the torrid heat of Africa. At one time it had a population of 412 million people (23% of the world's population). From the Age of Discovery in the 15th century to decolonization in the 20th, the Empire brought great benefits, but also hid significant darkness. During the workshop, we will explore the legacy of this Empire "on which the sun never sets" in the fields of law, politics, human rights, economics, trade, exploration, culture (music, art and food) and linguistics. With a broad range of subjects from which to select, and no required readings, you will have the freedom to explore in detail any topic that inspires you, and every session will have plenty of time for lively discussion. **Each participant will be expected to give a 20-minute presentation.**

FACILITATOR:

Cathy Spark (sparkpersonalc@gmail.com) A marketing, strategic communications and change management practitioner, Cathy is passionately curious about all things social history. She likes nothing better than sharing that excitement by exploring and exchanging ideas with others.

CANADIAN SYMBOLS

Biweekly, Thursday, 2 – 4, Week 2

What is the real and surprising truth behind the most iconic Canadian symbols, such as the Flag, Totem Poles, Maple Syrup, Mounties, Vimy Ridge, Tim Hortons, Beaver, Hockey, or the National Anthem? Their history is often contentious and contested. Some symbols have been forgotten; others are being revived, such as once outlawed indigenous cultural practices. Exploring their history serves as a counterweight to blind nationalism or unchecked patriotism but allows also for recognizing their power in shaping how we see ourselves.

With a wide range of subjects from which to select, and no required readings, you may explore in detail any topic that inspires you. **Each participant will be expected to give a 20-minute presentation** following which there will be plenty of time for discussion. A primary resource is Symbols of Canada edited by Michael Dawson, Catherine Gidney, & Donald Wright.

FACILITATORS:

Don Nicol (nicoldl@sympatico.ca) is a retired United Church minister and teacher in other cultures in local languages whom the Academy has inspired and provoked for 17 years.

Margrit Eichler (margrit.eichler@utoronto.ca) is a retired sociologist who is looking forward to pondering symbols, from the sublime to the ridiculous.

CELEBRATION OF SONG

Biweekly, Friday, 12 – 2, Week 2

Songs are a vital part of our lives. First, **participants will give presentations** on their choice of historical periods of song, composers (e.g., Cole Porter, Jim Webb, and Lennon & McCartney), performers (e.g., Tiny Tim, the Beatles, Mel Torme), or favourite songs. Second, we will sing the songs we discuss. No experience is required – just enthusiasm for singing. We can sing a capella, or with a karaoke machine or with the accompaniment of whichever instruments members of the course wish to play (piano, guitar, accordion, percussion).

FACILITATOR:

Paul Nash (paulnash7662@gmail.com) has performed at OpenStages around Toronto. He led the senior sing at the Tranzac Club and has years of experience leading and following in amateur performances.

CHINA'S ASIAN ORBIT

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Wednesday, 10 – 12, Week 1

While the rise of China has resulted in a great deal of exposure in the western media, the economic and political development of its neighbours remains relatively unexplored. This workshop will look at some of the 14 countries with whom China shares a land border – Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Mongolia, North Korea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. **Each workshop participant will choose a particular country for a 20 to 30 minute presentation.**

FACILITATORS:

Rick Guisso (ric33tor@hotmail.com) has facilitated a number of Asian-focused workshops, studying the histories of China, Japan, and the countries of the Ottoman Empire. He is keenly interested in exploring China's expanding role in today's world.

Philip Wong (philip.wong.ca@hotmail.com) retired after a career of 30+ years in Information Technology and Project Management. Currently he is a member of the Academy's Curriculum Committee and Technical Leadership team.

CITIES OF THE FUTURE

Biweekly, Tuesday, 12 – 2, Week 2

It is anticipated that in 2050, 70% of the world's population will live in cities, a majority of them with more than 10 million inhabitants. Building cities that can accommodate such a large number of people is the challenge for the next 25 years. In this workshop we will look at megacities that have successfully or unsuccessfully dealt with the economic, demographic, cultural and management issues they have faced. We will examine the factors that make a megacity livable and sustainable, and we will discuss the research, competitions and projects around the world that will drive planning and investments in megacities. **Participants will be asked to make a 20-minute presentation and to actively participate in the bi-weekly discussions.**

FACILITATORS:

Andris Rubenis (andrisrubenis1@gmail.com) was born in a post-WW2 refugee camp in Germany of Latvian parents and came to Toronto at 2. He was a family physician, with an eventual concentration in long-term care medicine. Other interests – grandchildren, anthropology, astronomy, paleo-anything, history, music, guitar, travel, and lifelong learning (just for the sake of it).

Karena de Souza (Karena@karenadesouza.com) is a strategist and speaker. She currently presents to young adults and their influencers (parents, educators, employers) on the Future of Work. Her degree in Math & Computing led to a long career on Wall Street in IT. She joined the Academy in 2018 drawn by its collaborative learning, breadth of workshops and the cluster of curious minds.

CLIMATE CHANGE

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Friday 10 – 12 Week 1

Climate change has been a major concern for about 30 years. In 2006 Al Gore heightened our consciousness with his film “An Inconvenient Truth”. What has changed? Bring your opinions to this workshop and be part of an exploration of an updated look at the causes, effects, mitigations, and adaptations to climate change.

Each participant is asked to do a presentation on a topic such as the effects we can see today, anthropogenic causes, tipping points, effects on global economic activities, adaptations and their costs, impacts on human health and the natural world, population migrations, and present-day mitigations.

When do we stop burning fossil fuel? What should we do as Canadians? In the US is it the “Green New Deal”?

FACILITATORS:

Ron Miller (ronmiller@rogers.com) has had a long career in the aerospace industry after graduating as an engineer from McGill University. He now spends his time making up for his narrow science and engineering education by participating in many Academy workshops. Ron is interested in multidisciplinary topics such as climate change when he is not playing tennis. Ron co-facilitated the Iran workshop in 2018/19.

Laura Tyson (lauratyson88@gmail.com) worked in the airline industry after studying sociology and history at York University. She has spent the last 18 years working as a PI and conducting market research in retail sales. She is a volunteer Caring Clown and amateur actor / singer. Laura is presently working on an inter-generational initiative with seniors and high school students using singing and music. With no plans for retirement, she is enjoying continuing education at both U of T and Ryerson Life Institute.

COMEDY IN FILM

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Tuesday, 2 – 4, Week 1

In film, comedy has always been considered a lesser art form than drama. How often is a comedy awarded the top prize in any major competition? In this workshop we will look at the history of films that make us laugh, concentrating on films made in USA, Canada and the UK. We will explore films from the point of view of the producers, directors, and actors (e.g, Charlie Chaplin, Mel Brooks, Monty Python). What factors have made them funny and successful or unsuccessful?

Participants will research a 30-minute presentation on a film, actor, or director of their choice discussing what makes his or her work funny and what impact their films might have had on social and political issues.

FACILITATORS:

Babs Church (babschurch@sympatico.ca) has been an enthusiastic film-goer from a very early age and thinks funny films are, too often, not taken seriously.

Rhona Wolpert (rhona_wolpert@rogers.com) is a long-time film buff and looks forward to enjoying comedic aspects of film with enthusiastic Academy members.

CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Biweekly, Tuesday, 12 – 2, Week 1

Since the end of the Cold War, conflict prevention and resolution has risen to the top of the international agenda. This workshop covers the theory and practice of conflict resolution. It charts the development of the field from its pioneers to its contemporary exponents, offers an assessment of its achievements, and looks at the challenges it faces in today's changed security environment.

Topics include reconciliation, responses to terror, gender issues, the ethics of intervention, dialogue, culture, and future directions for the field. Conflict remediation at the personal, community, and international levels will be explored. **Members of the workshop will be expected to prepare a presentation on one of the topics.**

FACILITATOR:

Paul Nash (paulnash7662@gmail.com) designed and led workshops in team building, conducted certification programs for mediators, and worked in criminal court diversion programs. He is a United Way volunteer consultant.

CONTEMPORARY FILM A

Biweekly, Wednesday 12 – 2, Week 2

Please join us for lively discussions of contemporary films. At each meeting we choose two films to view on our own before the next class. Films may be from any genre — indies, art films, block-busters — or whatever moves the class when voting. The two

presentations per class will focus on aspects such as themes, production values, and take-home values. We rate the films individually, and then compare our class rating to the Internet rating, just for fun. For the first session, the facilitator will contact registered members with the two films for consideration and solicit volunteers for presentations.

FACILITATORS:

Sue Kralik (csuekralik@gmail.com) is a retired school principal whose interests include political activism, history, choral singing, Scottish Country Dancing, and astronomy. Sue's enjoyment of film has increased since becoming an Academy member and she looks forward to a year of viewing films and sharing opinions and ratings.

Marg Morriss (mmorriss@ryerson.ca) taught English at Ryerson University for many years, and now enjoys the social and intellectual stimulation of the Academy workshops and activities.

CONTEMPORARY FILM B

Biweekly, Thursday 12 – 2, Week 2

Welcome to all Film Fans! In each session we jointly choose two contemporary films. Each member is then expected to view and rate them, based on a set of criteria developed by the group, as well as their personal enjoyment. This has been a lively workshop where members are never at a loss for discussion. Members will take turns introducing the films, but everyone should come prepared to discuss them.

FACILITATORS:

Ruth Sidorchuk (ruth.sidorchuk@sympatico.ca) is a retired school librarian. After several years of membership in various Academy workshops, she has found her niche in her love of film and is looking forward to another great year of film viewing.

Doug Wilson (marycw@sympatico.ca) is retired from a career in public education. His knowledge and interest in contemporary film has increased since he became a member of this workshop at the Academy.

CRIME, PREVENTION, AND PUNISHMENT

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Wednesday, 10 – 12, Week 2

As long as there have been people there has been crime. And as long as there has been crime, there have been victims and societies seeking revenge, retribution, or rehabilitation.

Join us to explore historical and cultural topics as diverse as forms of crime, law enforcement, the justice system, criminology, cultural representation of crime, infamous criminals, famous crimes and/or trials, gangs, and organized crime.

With a broad range of subjects from which to select, and no required readings, you will have the freedom to explore in detail any topic that inspires you, and every session will have plenty of time for lively discussion. **Each participant will be expected to give a 20-minute presentation.**

FACILITATORS:

Cathy Spark (sparkpersonalc@gmail.com) A marketing, strategic communications and change management practitioner, Cathy is passionately curious about all things social history. She likes nothing better than sharing that excitement by exploring and exchanging ideas with others.

Sue Gaston (gastonsusane@gmail.com) is a retired office administrator and has been a member of the Academy for the past three years. She is an avid reader, photographer, and quilter, and enjoys all that the Academy has to offer.

DANCE ME TO THE END OF TIME

Biweekly, Wednesday, 12 – 2, Week 1

Join us again in exploring great choreographers, dancers, and dance companies that have shaped and changed the language of ballet and added to our understanding of dance. **Each participant will be expected to research and do one presentation to be followed by group discussion.** Topics may be either (a) a great choreographer, dancer, or dance company highlighting the history, social context, and significance to dance, or (b) an issue facing ballet such as the #MeToo movement, race, body image, or (c) an aspect of ballet such as ballet and the movies, ballet shoes, or ballet costumes. Come be inspired by Nijinsky, Nureyev, and many others and be stimulated by lively discussions.

** topics for presentations will not duplicate those covered in 2018/19

FACILITATORS:

Yvette Matyas (ymatyas5351@rogers.com) worked for over 20 years in healthcare administration, including leading teams and facilitating retreats. She has co-facilitated workshops on Architecture and Reflections on Aging.

Thea Herman (theaherman1@gmail.com) is a retired judge, lawyer and senior civil servant. In retirement, she is enjoying pursuing various interests, including Spanish and music (flute and piano). She looks forward to continuing to explore the world of dance.

DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON OUR FUTURE

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Wednesday, 12 – 2, Week 1

We are living in an era where technological change is occurring at a rapid pace and is impacting the way we live now and will impact the way we live in the future. In this workshop, we will examine some of the disruptive technologies that are being developed and their potential impact. Topics will include, but are not limited to, the Internet of Things (IOT), cryptocurrencies, assistive technologies, the Cloud, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, autonomous cars, healthcare technology, 3D printing, advanced robotics, mobile internet, voice-based personal assistants, and gene editing. For each session, an overview of the technology will be presented in the first hour and the second hour will focus on the potential impact of the technology. No prior knowledge of any of the technologies is required.

FACILITATORS:

Ross Linton is a Q.C. and a Master Emeritus of the Superior Court of Justice. With the exception of one year, he has been a facilitator of workshops at the Academy since it began.

Sandra Linton has been an Academy member for the past nine years and a facilitator for the last three years. Her career as a software training specialist and instructional designer in the corporate world has kept her busy for more than 25 years.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

Biweekly, Monday, 10 – 2, Week 1

Documentary films have become increasingly popular as they effectively reflect the richness and ambiguity of life, bringing us real stories from the world around us. Together we will explore this exciting medium by presenting films on a wide variety of topics. All films (some of which may contain subtitles) will be screened in class. **For each documentary a team of three group members will be responsible for making brief introductory presentations about the filmmaker(s), themes introduced, and film techniques used.** Two other participants will co-ordinate to lead our group discussion.

All documentaries will be available in advance to presenters and discussion leaders from the library, Netflix, etc., or will be provided on dvd by the facilitators.

FACILITATORS:

Sharon Harris (sharonlh546@gmail.com) retired after a varied career in education while she simultaneously pursued a second career as a fine art photographer. She is an avid movie-goer who enjoys both documentaries and feature films.

Doug Wilson (marycw@sympatico.ca) is a fan of documentary films because they are informative and innovative, and the discussions about them are interesting, diverse, and lively. Join us to enjoy and learn from our documentary films.

ECONOMIST READERS

Weekly, Thursday, 10-12, Weeks 1 & 2

This group will meet to extract the wit and wisdom in politics, business, finance, culture, literature and science from this influential international journal. Subscription copies can be delivered by mail (phone 1-800-456-6086) or electronically at (economist@neodata.com). **At each session, the group selects about eight articles and the discussion is begun with a brief introduction by the person proposing each article.**

FACILITATORS:

Jim McCartney (berlin@rogers.com) holds an MA in Modern History from U of T and taught high school history in Toronto for 36 years.

Linda Tu (lindatu@sympatico.ca) is a scientist by training and persuasion. She has taught science courses at university level and informally to bright children.

EQUALITY AND INEQUALITY

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Thursday, 2 – 4, Week 1

“Inequality is the defining challenge of our time,” said President Obama in December 2013. ‘Equality’ and ‘Inequality’ are words used every day but what do they mean? Are they mutually exclusive? Both will be considered in their broadest sense and not solely in monetary terms. The workshop will look at authors as diverse as Kurt Vonnegut and Thomas Piketty. **Each participant will be expected to make a 20-25 minute presentation on a topic.** The focus will be on breaking EQUALITY and INEQUALITY down into ‘bite-sized’, more manageable issues such as affirmative action programs, universal basic income, education, race, social mobility, income and wealth.

FACILITATOR:

Stephen Johnson (stephenjohnson54@rogers.com) is a Chartered Accountant and is the co- founder of a Toronto asset management company. He is interested in history and current affairs and tries to put into practice the motto of the Scottish C.A.’s – ‘Quaere Verum’ (seek the truth).

EUROPE BETWEEN THE WARS: 1919 – 1939

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Friday, 10 – 12, Week 1

Europe during the 1920s and 1930s experienced great highs and lows. Radical ideas and changes were unleashed in politics, economics, and society, many with unexpected and sometimes devastating consequences. It was also a time of modernization and experimentation in the arts (visual and plastic arts, music, literature, architecture, film, fashion), science, medicine and technology. Women started to come to the fore and the world changed, dramatically and permanently. In this workshop, we will explore the actions, ideas, trends, and innovations of these tumultuous decades, and the people behind them, sharing insights and discussing how they affected and were affected by each other. **Participants will present and discuss the person, group, or innovation of their choosing.**

FACILITATORS:

Peter Steiner (petersteiner@sympatico.ca) retired (sort of) from teaching high school physics and chemistry about 10 years ago. Academy interests include science, history, art and current events, usually with some connection to societal effects.

Jeff Biteen (jeff_biteen@hotmail.com) is a retired Human Resources executive and history buff. He previously co-facilitated the Makers of the French Revolution workshop.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Weekly, Friday, 2 – 4

This workshop is focused on discussions of current events. **Members suggest topics of interest; they are expected to be aware of events reported in the various media and to come prepared to discuss them.** Each session will begin with a listing of the proposed events of interest, followed by a short introduction of each event by the member who suggested it, and then by discussion.

FACILITATORS:

Rene Laukat (rlaukat@rogers.com) is European born, a Torontonion, and city-lover. Taking a very early retirement from her human resources work with the Province of Ontario, she has since indulged her love of travel, cruising, classical music, opera, film, life with cats, and year-round hiking. She is a news junkie who loves to discuss the amazing events, local and international, of our age and has been an active member of the Academy for more than two decades.

Ken Snelson (ksnelson@rogers.com) was brought up in the UK and after gaining a degree in engineering worked for about 30 years in the electricity supply industry followed by 13 years as a consultant. In retirement he has pursued his interest in British postal history including writing two books and serving as the Secretary of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada since 2006. Ken has been the coordinator of the Academy's Walks since 2013 and has been a member of Events of the Week for a number of years with a taste for the odd or unusual.

INDIGENOUS VOICES: ARTISTS, AUTHORS, AND ACTIVISTS

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Tuesday, 12 – 2, Week 1

Indigenous voices in the arts and in politics are increasingly compelling in the 21st century. Are their calls for recognition of their social, legal and economic rights being heard? This workshop will focus on Indigenous Canadian voices (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), but will also take selected looks at voices from Central and South America, Australia and New Zealand. The intersection between the arts and politics will be a central theme. Some of the individuals we will look at are: artists Kenojouak Ashevak and Alex Janvier, authors Thomas King and Tanya Talaga, activists Arthur Manuel and Cindy Blackstock, legal advocates John Borrows and Murray Sinclair, filmmaker Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, and others in a variety of creative fields. **Participants will be expected to make a 20 – 25 minute presentation** on a topic chosen from a list provided by the facilitators, or of their own choosing. All will be encouraged to share articles relevant to the course, but there will be no assigned weekly readings.

FACILITATORS:

Marilyn Friesen (marilynriesen@hotmail.com) has a rare knowledge and love of the Canadian Arctic, having taken 21 trips there, including a year-long residency in the woods of the Northwest Territories. A graduate of Physical and Occupational Therapy at U of T, it is not surprising that her activities include white water canoeing, kayaking, and backpacking.

Clare Mian (claremian@gmail.com) is a retired teacher and administrator at both the elementary and secondary level. She enjoys history and politics, and has recently added the study of Indigenous peoples to her lifelong interest in Africa and the Middle East. She takes courses at U. of T., and occasionally writes for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

JAZZ APPRECIATION

Biweekly, Thursday, 2 – 4, Week 2

Jazz music is considered to be America's greatest original art form and is well known for its creativity and innovation. Since its emergence at the beginning of the 20th century, its evolution has been closely woven into the tremendous changes and upheaval in American society.

Our Jazz Appreciation workshop features examples and discussions of various different eras and personalities and how the evolution of jazz has reflected and contributed to those changes.

Each participant is requested to select a musician, personality, or genre and prepare a presentation of approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Examples of recorded music should be provided to share with the group and time allowed for group discussion to follow.

This is an enthusiastic, highly interactive and fun class in which all are welcome from curious beginners to those who have enjoyed all aspects of jazz for many years.

Wherever possible, we invite a guest musician to explain and illustrate the role of their own instrument in jazz.

FACILITATORS:

Walter (Wally) Posner (wdposner@rodgers.com) immigrated to Canada from South Africa in 1974. A lawyer by training, his interests include current affairs and art but jazz is a continuing lifelong enthusiasm and one in which he has developed a deep understanding.

Colin Gordon (coling40@gmail.com) has been an active student of jazz and jazz musicians for 60 years from the basement clubs of London, England to the concert halls of North America and is a keen supporter of local Canadian musicians. A few years ago, he took up the trombone and played in a local seniors' band. He finds jazz and continuing learning a great way to nourish the brain.

JAZZICAL

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Tuesday 10 – 12, Week 2

There has been a fusion of jazz and classical music which began in the 20th century and has continued to our day. A list of composers who attempted this melding of styles and forms include the following: Debussy, Ravel, Darius Milhaud, Stravinsky, Copland, Bernstein, Gershwin, Richard Rogers, Duke Ellington, Nicolai Kapustin, John Adams, Gunter Schuller, and William Bolcom, to name some of the more prominent.

The perfect source book is *The Rest is Noise*, by Alex Ross, the music critic for the New Yorker. This work is a masterful history of 20th century music which is clearly and gracefully written and can guide presenters in their quest for material for the class. Googling the topic will find all sorts of resources on YouTube.

FACILITATOR:

Brigid Elson (brigelso@bell.net) has a Ph.D. in French, taught for the Toronto Board of Education (including music) and has published five ebooks.

LEO AND MIKE

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Thursday, 12 – 2, Week 2

Leonardo Di Vinci and Michelangelo, the quintessential Renaissance men, co-existed in the Medici-Borgia ambience of the times, but they didn't get along. One dressed and lived lavishly; the other guarded every penny. One was a Master of Revels who became a painter, inventor, designer, and architect. The other, a sculptor, became a painter, a favourite of popes, and he, too, became an architect. Both designed and built city defences.

As each member of the workshop makes a presentation, we'll explore the life stories, designs, creations, and brief verbal duels of these two central figures of the Renaissance.

FACILITATOR:

Brian O'Leary (brianoleary@rogers.com) has facilitated a range of workshops, including the Spanish Civil War, World Theatre, Television, History of Spain, Shakespeare Live, About Rome, and Byzantium.

MAN BOOKER WINNERS (1968 – 2019)

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Friday, 10 – 12, Week 2

Do you enjoy engrossing yourself in a great novel? Please join us as we explore some of the best from the list of the Man Booker Prize winners. **Participants are asked to read the 11 books chosen and then base their presentations on either an author OR his / her novel.** Authors include Margaret Atwood, Hilary Mantel, Julian Barnes and Michael Ondaatje.

FACILITATORS:

Sheilagh Hickie (shickie@bell.net) was born in Montreal, graduated from Sir George Williams College (now Concordia) and spent most of her working years in publishing, on the advertising side. She is fascinated by the literature that shaped us.

Ellen Edmonds (edmonds@interlog.com) was born in Denmark, where she taught Danish, English, and Latin. She immigrated to Canada in 1966, received a B.A. from York University and an M.A. from U. of T. She taught English until retirement.

MEMOIR READING AND WRITING

Biweekly, Tuesday, 10 – 12, Week 1

Memoir, unlike autobiography, is the art of reminiscing about particular events, people and/or time periods in our lives and is becoming increasingly popular. As in previous years, participants will present extracts from their own writing or that of a published memoir. Ideas/prompts are offered to stimulate writing in class, and provide a source for longer pieces. Time will be given to share these explorations in a safe and inviting atmosphere. Participants are encouraged to provide constructive feedback to sharers (who request it), as learning from others is a significant component of this workshop.

FACILITATORS:

Kathy Honickman (khonickman@hotmail.com) is a retired French and Special Education teacher of 37 years. She is inspired by the stories of others, believes that humour saves all, and does some of her best memoir planning in the kitchen.

Sally Spofforth (sallyspofforth@sympatico.com) conducts leadership workshops in Toronto schools. She enjoys hearing the stories of others, and is excited by the creative possibilities in the making of memoirs.

Janet Tyrell (janettyrell@rogers.com) is a retired librarian enjoying various Academy offerings. Registered in the Memoirs workshop for several years, she loves to share her stories of growing up in Nevis, W. I.

MESOPOTAMIA: FROM BABYLON TO IRAQ

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 20

Biweekly, Wednesday, 12 – 2, Week 2

As “the cradle of civilization”, Mesopotamia has endured 3500 years of dynastic struggle. In Babylon they built Hanging Gardens and Hammurabi enforced his code of law; during the Golden Age of Islam Baghdad became a world centre of science, culture, philosophy, and invention. In modern Iraq, the discovery of oil has presented a new challenge. Rival powers, including ISIS, have wreaked havoc on civil society, and U.S. intervention has only stirred the pot. Inextricably tied to the modern nations of the Middle East, Iraq’s population is one of the most diverse in the world, including Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Assyrians, Yazidis, Armenians, and Mandaens.

This workshop will focus on today’s Iraq since its formation in 1920, but it will also explore its rich history and culture. **Participants are expected to prepare one 20 – 30 minute presentation and participate in the discussions.**

FACILITATORS:

Joan McCordic (mccordic@rogers.com) studied Philosophy and English, was a founder of Prologue to the Performing Arts, and is enjoying a wide variety of workshops and volunteer jobs at the Academy.

Mohammed Bakir (mh_bakir@yahoo.com) holds a Ph.D. in statistics from Leeds University, U.K., and has worked mainly on socio-economic statistics and research. He was born in Iraq and immigrated to Canada in 2002. Mohammed has co-facilitated three workshops, two on Islam and one on Iran.

MUSIC APPRECIATION: CELEBRATING VIRTUOSI OF KEYBOARDS AND STRINGS

Biweekly, Wednesday, 2 – 4, Week 1

Who were the greatest keyboard or string players of all time? (Even the experts differ in their choices.) How did they touch the minds and hearts of their listeners in ways other highly talented musicians did not? Did this make them ‘virtuosi’? Or was it something else? Will we ever decide exactly what it was?

Join the discussion as we investigate the lives and talents of those who have replaced Liszt or Paganini as ‘greats’. Horowitz, Glenn Gould, Menuhin, Yo-Yo Ma, and Jana Bouskova are just a few who come to mind – and you may add your own suggestions to our list. Discover the stories behind our virtuosi, and enjoy hearing their special musical gifts **as you combine a biographical profile of your chosen instrumentalist(s) with videos or CDs demonstrating their artistry.**

FACILITATORS:

Charlotte Broome (charlotte1.broome@gmail.com) has had a lifelong interest in classical and choral music, and currently sings alto in two choirs. For several years she co-facilitated both Music Appreciation and Unusual Museums.

Liz Nichol (liz.nichol@rogers.com) has co-chaired the TD National Piano Competition and been involved in educational outreach activities as a volunteer with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Until recently she studied cello, which was a stimulating, wonderful pursuit.

NEW YORKER READERS I

Biweekly, Thursday, 10 – 12, Week 1

Join the Readers for a lively, provocative, fun, thoughtful and always timely discussion of articles, stories, reviews, poems, cartoons and covers of the New Yorker magazine. Participants choose articles via email in order to identify articles for discussion prior to the meeting, so that they can discuss and express their opinions at the workshop. We encourage different perspectives and lively debates. The New Yorker is available online, by mail or newsstand.

FACILITATORS:

Sylvia Milne (slvmilne@gmail.com) is a graduate of U. of T. Modern History, and her career included teaching and group facilitation, primarily in the Outplacement Counselling business. She enjoys an active retirement, which includes reading, movies, theatre, concerts, and community service.

Donald Wallace (dcwallace@hotmail.com) joined the Academy in 2016 shortly after his retirement. He has been a devoted New Yorker reader since his teens and not just the cartoons.

NEW YORKER READERS II

Biweekly, Tuesday, 2 – 4, Week 1

Join the New Yorker Readers workshop to discuss the timely commentary, criticism, essays, fiction, poetry, and even the cartoons of this outstanding American magazine. The New Yorker's great range of articles give its readers a springboard for some very lively discussions. At each biweekly meeting, members will discuss articles they have

already chosen by earlier emails sent to workshop facilitators. The New Yorker is available by subscription, at the newsstand, or online.

FACILITATORS:

Nancy Goldin (nancygoldin@gmail.com) has been a lifelong student of the arts, literature and politics. As a member of the Academy for four years, she has explored her love of history as well.

Liz Guccione (sympatica@sympatico.ca) worked as a researcher and writer for print, radio, television, and government. She has been reading The New Yorker and laughing at its jokes for decades.

NON-FICTION: NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Biweekly, Tuesday, 2 - 4, Week 2

This lively workshop examines non-fiction books written in the last few years that draw attention to important issues. Some of the books likely to be read, presented, and discussed are: 21 Lessons for the 21st Century by Yuval Harari, Educated by Tara Westover and The Reconciliation Manifesto: Recovering the Land, Rebuilding the Economy by Arthur Manuel. **In order to participate in the often-spirited discussions, everyone is expected to read the selected books and make one 20-minute presentation structured to provoke discussion.**

FACILITATORS:

Ann Mummenhoff (amummenhoff@rogers.com) is interested in discussing books on current affairs, biography, politics, and history and has been a member of the Non-Fiction workshop for many years.

Mandy Thomson (mandythomson@sympatico.ca) is a former education administrator and consultant who thrives on the joys of retirement, the delights of a good discussion, and learning at the Academy.

OPINIONS

Biweekly, Wednesday, 10 – 12, Week 2

Participants will discuss articles taken from a wide range of journals, newspapers, and other sources. Topics should be substantive enough to be worthy of discussion. The group will consider the case made by the author in the light of experience, alternative points of view, and other material that may be offered by the presenter. Participants are expected to read articles chosen for review, take turns introducing an article and starting the discussion, and are encouraged to suggest suitable articles from their own reading.

FACILITATORS:

Bill Davis (b216davis@gmail.com) is a Chartered Accountant. Most of his working life was spent as an officer of the United Church of Canada, latterly as the senior financial officer. Interests and achievements are in ecumenical social justice work and local community work with Residents' Associations and youth groups.

Jim Pike (jimpike@rogers.com) is a Professional Engineer who worked at IBM in a number of sales and marketing roles. Cottaging, travel, and technology augment his continued interest in the Academy.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE

NEW FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Friday 12 – 2, Week 1

An examination of how the many facets of photography have developed over the last century and a half; how it has documented human and social conditions; and how it has altered and illuminated our perceptions and opinions. The camera has been used as a tool by painters, journalists, scientists, and artists. We will look at how different photographers worked in these and other areas throughout the decades, as well as how the changing technology has led to changes in the types of images the photographers could produce.

Participants will be expected make a short presentation based on an outline supplied by the facilitators, or on a topic of their own choosing after consultation with a facilitator. It is also the intention of the workshop to visit a few galleries and photo exhibits in Toronto and then discuss the work. If the group desires, we can also schedule a photography 'outing' and then view participants' photographs and provide feedback.

FACILITATORS:

Matt Segal (matthewsegal@rogers.com) is an experienced television script and story editor for CBC, CTV, TVO, and freelance. He also worked in live theatre and managed and programmed cinemas for the Toronto International Film Festival, conducted CBC

and Telefilm sponsored workshops for visible minority and Native writers & performers, and taught scriptwriting at Seneca and Sheridan Colleges. Photography and camera art are his avid retirement hobbies.

Peter Steiner (petersteiner@sympatico.ca) retired (sort of) from teaching high school physics and chemistry about 10 years ago. Academy interests include science, history, art, and current events, usually with some connection to societal effects.

READING THROUGH BORDERS: DISPLACEMENT, MIGRATION, AND REFUGE

NEW FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Tuesday, 10 – 2, Week 2

Forced migration / displacement is a phenomenon that marks our current era and challenges the political agenda of many nations. Through novels, memoirs, and non-fiction our readings will highlight the experiences of “asylum seekers” and “refugees” as well as the economic and geopolitical forces such as imperialism, globalization, and climate change that precipitate global migrations. The reading list and schedule will be established in June. **Each workshop participant will be invited to select one of the books to present to the group. The participants are expected to do all the readings.**

FACILITATORS:

Sally McLean (sallyjmclean@gmail.com) is enjoying Toronto after years as an intercultural communication consultant in Ottawa and Vancouver, and continues to be preoccupied with social justice challenges. She has co-facilitated the workshop Reading Through Race, Racism and Resistance and is looking forward to exploring the complicated issues surrounding displacement.

Maureen Fitzgerald (m.fitzgerald@utoronto.ca) is an editor, an ex-academic (anthropology) and ex-publisher. She has co-facilitated the workshop Reading Through Race, Racism and Resistance and continues to be interested in joining and contributing to conversations about the pressing issues of inequality.

SOCIO-POLITICAL FEATURE FILMS

Biweekly, Tuesday, 12 – 4, Week 2

Feature films are an excellent way to highlight current and historical social and political issues in order to inform and arouse a broad public. This workshop aims to stimulate thought and discussion through such films. We will view the films together, giving the opportunity for immediacy of reaction to the issues. Before viewing, one participant will briefly introduce the film, its director, actors, the making of the film, etc. After viewing, a second participant will address issues the film raises. Both presenters will suggest discussion questions. All films will be subtitled to assist hearing. Examples of films viewed in 2018-19 were *The Battle of Algiers* (1966) and *The Crying Game* (1992).

FACILITATORS:

Clare Mian (claremian@gmail.com) is a retired teacher (History and French) and administrator at both the elementary and secondary level, and has had a lifelong interest in African and Middle Eastern studies. She is now taking courses at the University of Toronto, and is writing on these topics for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Donald Wallace (dcwallace@hotmail.com) joined the Academy in 2016 shortly after his retirement. He has had a lifelong interest in film and still misses Saturday Night at the Movies on TVO.

STAND-UP COMEDY FOR SENIORS

Biweekly, Thursday, 12 – 2, Week 1

Back by popular demand! Laughter is the best medicine and stand-up comedy is just what we need to help us cope with the challenges of aging. This fun-filled workshop will include studying videos of professional comics, and writing and performing our own original jokes. At the end of the workshop, the group will do a comedy show of their material for Academy members in March 2020. No memorization is required; index cards are fine.

FACILITATORS:

Ian Darragh (ian.darragh@gmail.com)

Priscilla Platt (priscillaplatt@rogers.com)

The facilitators are two very funny people. Both Ian Darragh and Priscilla Platt completed two years of the Academy's stand-up comedy workshop facilitated by Michael Cole. Ian has taught writing at Ryerson University, George Brown College, Carleton University and Algonquin College. Priscilla studied stand-up comedy at Second City and performed at Absolute Comedy.

T.S. ELIOT: A DEFINING POETIC VOICE

NEW OFFERING FOR 2019 / 2020

Biweekly, Friday, 12 – 2, Week 2

T.S. Eliot was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948 for his outstanding contribution to 20th century poetry. Saint or sinner, Eliot has been described by many as the greatest poet of the modern era. This workshop will involve close readings and analyses of *The Love Song of Alfred J Prufrock*, *The Wasteland*, and *Four Quartets*, three of his most highly acclaimed and complex works.

FACILITATORS:

Janet Maher (janetimaher@yahoo.com) has a B.A. and M.A. (and part of a Ph.D.) in English literature. She taught English at Seneca College for 35 years and looks forward to exploring Eliot this fall at the Academy.

Tanya Long (tlong@osteoporosis.ca) has had careers in academics, publishing, and at a non-profit organization. Her educational background includes two graduate degrees in English literature, which helped nurture her love of poetry.

THE WEB OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Biweekly, Thursday, 12 – 2, Week 1

Our natural world is a web of wonder, beauty and complexity. In this workshop we will take a broad look at natural phenomena through many scientific disciplines. These may include psychology, chemistry, physics, geology, bacteriology and more. We will see that there are many ways in which scientific studies overlap to inform our everyday existence. Each session will focus on an article of your choice, generally from the current year of the journal *Scientific American*. Other source material may include scientific magazines such as *Discovery Magazine*, *Science News*, *Science*, and *The New Scientist*.

FACILITATOR:

Linda Tu (lindatu@sympatico.ca) is a scientist by training and persuasion. She has taught science courses at university level and informally to bright children.